

REMARKS

The Examiner's communication dated August 1, 2005 has been received and carefully considered. In conformance with the applicable statutory requirements, this paper constitutes a complete reply and/or a bona fide attempt to advance the application to allowance. Specifically, claims 2, 5, 7, 11-13, 15-17, 20 have been amended and claim 1 has been canceled. Reexamination and/or reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 5-6, 8-9, 11-12 and 14 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claims 13 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Watson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,265,859).

Claims 1-4, 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Westcott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,921,539).

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watson et al. in view of Amano (U.S. Patent No. 6,120,018).

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westcott et al., as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,951).

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13 and 17 have been carefully amended to overcome the § 112 rejection. Claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 17 and were rejected under § 112 only because claim 17 was rejected under § 112. Accordingly, no corrections of claims 18 and 19 were needed.

The Claims Distinguish Patentability
Over the Reference(s) of Record

Claim 5, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 5 and claims 2-4 and 6-10 dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 11, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 11 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 12, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 12 and claims 13-16 dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 has been amended to call for a pair of flexible and generally cylindrical connecting members connected to a frame for selectively and removably connecting the frame to an associated sheet feeder frame. The pair of flexible connecting members are each flexible along a first radial axis thereof for removably connecting to the associated sheet feeder frame when the first radial axis is aligned with an opening width of a corresponding bearing recess defined in the associated sheet feeder frame and relatively inflexible along a second radial access thereof for locking to the associated sheet feeder frame when the second radial axis is aligned with the opening width of the corresponding bearing recess. Applicant submits that this limitation is not disclosed or fairly suggested by the prior art of record. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 17 and claims 18-19 dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 20 has been amended to call for connecting members that are compressible in a first direction allowing removal from recesses when the first direction is parallel to opening widths of the recesses and rigid and incompressible in a second direction approximately normal to the first direction preventing removal from the recesses when the second direction is parallel to the opening widths of the recesses. Applicant submits that none of the references of record, alone or in combination, disclose or fairly suggest such an arrangement. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 20 is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims pending in the application (Claims 2-20) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.


No additional fee is believed to be required for this Response. However, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Erik J. Overberger, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 9, 2005
Date


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